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savage religions. More evidence than is yet available will have to be presented that the notion of *mana* is a truly primitive conception and not, as seems more likely, a relatively developed philosophical explanation, the investigation of which does not take us very far into the rudiments of the religious emotion. The time has gone by for "keys to all the mythologies." The elaborate systems which attempt to explain the totality of primitive religion by reference to a single factor—ancestor worship with Herbert Spencer, taboo with M. Reinach, totemism with M. Durkheim—"have their day and cease to be."

The volume is enriched with an ethnographic map of Australia. The proofreading, especially in the case of proper names, shows an accuracy unusual in a French book. It is a matter of real regret, however, that a work of such importance should be allowed to go forth without an index. For the latter, the detailed table of contents forms only a partial substitute.

HUTTON WEBSTER

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Race Improvement. By LAREINE HELEN BAKER. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1912. Pp. 137. \$1.00.

Among the shoal of books which the recent interest in eugenics has called into existence, none deserves less favorable comment than the one now under review. The author has set out with the intention of writing "a little book on a great subject," yet for the most part the statements which she makes would lead the reader to suppose that she was covering the entire subject with perfect adequacy. Nor are her general statements justifiable. "Nurture, or environment, has its place, and an important one, in race improvement, but the overwhelming fact remains that more than three-fourths of the elements which build up a human soul are in its nature, not its nurture. The formative factor of greatest importance in the making of human life and character is heredity" (p. 14). Similar looseness of statement is displayed when she writes, "Degeneracy is not a disease by specific intention, it is an attribute to our social neglect, it is the result of our inattention to vital issues, it is a sign that we are no longer keenly anxious to elevate the race" (p. 32). It is not necessary to go further into the analysis in order to demonstrate the gross inadequacy of the author's treatment. The book is not well written; it represents no new viewpoint; it is neither scientific nor popular.

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